

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Sport Fishing

Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the refuge in 1958 primarily for nesting, resting, staging and feeding waterfowl. The varied habitat of Iroquois Refuge supports many other wildlife species including: other migratory birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians. Responsible fishing can provide a quality recreational experience. Warm water fish species including northern pike, bass, black crappie, bullhead, carp, sunfish and yellow perch are the most common species found on the refuge.

While visiting the refuge please observe the following:

General Provisions

We allow fishing and frogging in accordance with state laws subject to the following conditions:

The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset. Camping and campfires are prohibited.

We allow fishing and frogging in Oak Orchard Creek (between Route 63 and Knowlesville Road) and in Ringneck Marsh only.

Frogs may be taken only within state season with a spear, club, hook or by hand. Guns and long bows are not permitted.

We allow shore fishing only, except when in an unmotorized boat on Oak Orchard Creek. Wading or float devices such as inner tubes or inflatable rafts are prohibited.

You can access Oak Orchard Creek at the bridges on Route 63, Sour Springs Road and Knowlesville Road and fish along the shore. The shoreline is flat and when dry it is accessible to wheelchairs however; access to the shore at Rt. 63 and Knowlesville Rd. is via a steep ramp.

You can access Ringneck Marsh from Sour Springs Road and below Ringneck Marsh Overlook on Oak Orchard Ridge Road. From Sour Springs Road you can fish off the edge of the road. The road is dirt and gravel and slopes sharply to the water on both sides. To fish from Ringneck dike, park in the overlook and walk down onto the grass dike below. There are large rocks along the bank. Please do not go beyond the water control structure.

Ice Fishing

We allow ice fishing on Ringneck Marsh only, from December 1 through the last day in February. All structures or other equipment must be removed from the refuge after the completion of the day's fishing activities.

Boats

We allow canoes or other boats without motors on Oak Orchard Creek from Knowlesville Road to Route 63 only. You may launch boats from Route 63, Sour Springs Road and Knowlesville Rd. The creek passes through wooded swamp. Expect obstructions and variable water levels.

Vehicles

Stay on public roads. Please, do not block gates or roads

Pets

For your pet's safety and to protect wildlife, please keep your dog on a leash no longer than 10 feet.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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